

Application No. 09/160,635
Amendment
Reply to Office Action of December 4, 2003

REMARKS

The above-identified application has been carefully reviewed and amended in light of the Examiner's communication mailed December 4, 2003.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's recognition of allowable subject matter in claims 15-18, 19, 20, 22-25, 28, and 29 in the above-identified patent application.

Claims 10, 16 and 17 have been amended in order to place the claims in condition for allowance.

Claims 13, 15, 34-40 and 43 have been canceled without prejudice. The Examiner has indicated that claims 41 and 42 are withdrawn as being drawn to non-elected structures. In order to expedite prosecution of the above-identified application, claims 41 and 42 have been canceled, without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute these canceled and withdrawn claims, for example, by means of one or more later filed related applications.

The Examiner has stated that claims 15 - 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, applicant has incorporated the subject matter of claim 15 into currently amended base claim 10. Claims 16 and 17 have been amended as appropriate to change the dependencies of these claims from canceled claim 15 to currently amended claim 10.

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Applicant submits that remaining claims 10, 13, 16-20, 22-25, and 28-29, are now in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests the Examiner to pass the application to issuance at an early date.

Should any matter remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to call (collect) the applicant's attorney at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank J. Uxa', with a stylized, cursive script.

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